

make the wilderness blossom, and the poverty-stricken barge becomes a city.

The opportune establishment of the railroad and harbour will effect all this, and moreover the as yet unwrought mines of wealth in fisheries, the richest on our coasts, will be developed, and other products, such as marbles and quarry etc. &c. will send their tributes also, enriching the landed proprietor, the labourers who toil, and benefiting both the trader and consumer throughout the country.

For a few years past an enterprising English firm, the Messrs. Franklin (of Westminster), have been operating on the black marble quarries of Menlo, near Galway; and, still more recently, brothers of the same firm have wrought stone quarries at Kilrush, near the mouth of the Shannon. The properties of these quarries, it is said, make them peculiarly eligible for flag-stones and city pavements. The material is a conglomerate limestone: the formation extends many miles: the rock is easily wrought as it comes to the surface, and is of great depth—laminating freely: it can be split into flags of any required thickness and extent.

The colour is a grey drab, and for strength the stone surpasses the Yorkshire, the expense being no more for light, and less for heavy or thick samples. 30,000 feet are to be used for the Galway terminus.

Black marble being now much used by all London architects, and trottoirs or foot-pavements much extended of late throughout the suburbs, the introduction of these fossils from the sister isle would do much to stimulate industry amongst a long neglected people.

QUONDAM.

SANITARY CONDITION OF LONDON.

THE annual report on this subject by the City Medical Officer of Health, Mr. Simon, has been published, and may be usefully consulted by those interested. Mr. Simon points out the new powers which the corporation have for the prevention of sanitary evils, and urges the necessity of using them efficiently.

"In 1849," he justly remarks, "with the cholera amidst us, great exertions were made, and greater promises. In that dreadful week, when 2,000 victims of our metropolitan population fell beneath its poison; when every household, from hour to hour, trembled at the visible nearness of death; the public was scared out of indifference. If the visitation could have been bought away, at the expense of doubling all local rates in perpetuity, no doubt the sacrifice would have been made. Public opinion was kindled to overwhelm all opposition.

The metropolis was to be drained afresh; the outfall of sewerage was no longer to be beneath our windows; the river was to be embanked; its rising tide was no longer to make our sewers disgorge their poisonous contents into our streets and houses; dead bodies in their decay were no more to desecrate the breathing-space of the living; water was no longer to be supplied—clumsily, insufficiently, and unwholesomely, at the discretion of private capitalists: all was to be amended.

For participation in these advantages, the City had to look beyond its own representatives, and to await the more comprehensive measures of her Majesty's Government.

Two years have elapsed, and none of the measures referred to have made visible progress. The water-question remains unsettled; arrangements for extramural interment of the dead have been disconcerted at what seemed the moment of their completion: the river still receives the entire sewage of this immense metropolis, and still at each retreating tide, spreads amid the town, as heretofore, its many miles of fetid, malarious mud."

ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBITION, PORTLAND GALLERIES.—We are glad to hear that the exhibition is about double the previous collection in extent, and of a much better character. We shall have something to say about it next week.

THE POLYCHROMY OF ANCIENT ART is announced as the subject to be considered at the meeting of the Royal Institute of British Architects on Monday next, when Professor Donaldson will call attention to the system developed in the superb work recently published by Mr. Hittori on this matter.

EPITAPHS.—HERTFORD CHURCHYARD.

THE churchwarden of Hertford has favoured us with a letter, denying that the two epitaphs we lately gave are in the churchyard there. He continues,—"The only singular inscriptions adjacent to that beautiful avenue, are as follow: on one stone,

Here Lyeth
Black Tom
of the Bull Inn in
Bishopgate-street,
1696.

And on the other,—

Here
Lies the Body of Sarah Young,
Wife of James Young,
of West Street.
Died, Sept. 8th, 1749. Aged 66.

She
Was a Pious Christian
And 38 Years so Kind
And Loving A Wife as
Never Gave her Husband
An Angry Word.

There is also another singular inscription (considering the building in which it is placed) on a tablet in the chancel, to the memory of Lord John Townshend, of Balls Park in this parish, who died in 1833.

For a period little short of 30 years
He was the Friend and Companion
of that illustrious Patriot and Statesman.

Mr. Fox,
A distinction
Which was the pride of his life,
and the only one
He was anxious might be recorded
after his death."

Our informant of the first-mentioned epitaphs (whose character puts doubts as to his correctness quite out of the question), says,—
"It is upwards of forty-five years since I was in the church-yard there; previous to which I was in the constant habit of attending service at 'All Saints Church,' during which time I had many opportunities of seeing and reading, as I have done, the inscriptions I furnished you with. I cannot take upon myself to say whether the tombstones are there now: if not, they must have been removed, or the lettering have become defaced by age, &c.; but I am quite willing to restate that they were there once, in the situation wherein I have described them."

A SUGGESTION FOR A LIGHTHOUSE ON THE GODWIN SANDS.

THE proposition of erecting a lighthouse on the Godwin Sands has occupied the attention of engineers and scientific men for a series of years, and we are still as far as ever from its being realised.

I would propose that a number of large blocks of stone of various sizes (similar to those employed in the construction of the Plymouth and Portland breakwaters) should be deposited on any selected spot adjacent to these sands: not on the sand ITSELF, but rather upon the border of it, in two or three fathoms water. These stones should be in the form of a circle, not less than 150 yards in diameter at high-water mark, and raised as high above as possible. A quantity of ballast mixed with ground chalk should be thrown in with the stones, to bind the whole together. This heap of stones should be allowed to settle and consolidate for two or three years; and as some of them may get washed away by the lashing of the waves, they should be replaced by others as soon as possible.

The next step will be to remove the top stones in the centre of the pile to the level of low-water mark, and prepare for the foundation of the lighthouse by making it level with concrete. The foundation should be of wrought iron plates, strongly riveted and braced together, circular in form, and 60 feet in diameter, upon which should be fired a border of cast iron 20 feet high, the space inside to be divided into a series of cells (all of cast iron), and filled with concrete, composed of four parts of coarse ballast, two of sand, and two of Roman cement. (The reason why I choose Roman cement is, because it is less likely to have an injurious effect upon the iron than lime.) Upon this erect the lighthouse, constructed of corrugated galvanised iron plates, strongly braced throughout.

strongly braced throughout.

Round the lower part of the lighthouse should be raised another border, about 10 feet inside the first one, and about 10 feet high, filled with concrete the same as the other. This would give great stability to the structure.

J. C. P.

Books.

Suggestions for a Crystal College, or new Palace of Glass, for combining the Intellectual Talent of All Nations; or, a Sketch of a Practical Philosophy of Education. By W. CAVE THOMAS, Master of the North London School for Drawing and Modelling. Dickinson, Brothers, New Bond-street, 1851.

THE title of this pamphlet is not a good one; or rather its sub-title, "A Sketch of a Practical Philosophy of Education," ought to have been the principal one. The "suggestions" alluded to are confined to the last two out of sixty three pages; and moreover "a Crystal College" would be wholly unsuited for such a purpose as that suggested, unstable as it would be, and continually exposed to alternations of temperature. Mr. Thomas appends two diagrams, or figurative outlines of a ground plan of such a college, circular in form and divided by inner circles and radii into sectional lecturing or teaching departments, comprehending in all a vast scheme of individual education. The main subject of the author's treatise may be gathered from the following remarks in the preface:—

"The fundamental character of the scheme we are about to develop may startle those accustomed to consider education in taste as an isolated branch of study, as something which may be attained *per se*, disconnected from other studies. Here they will find, on the contrary, our object to be the vindication of thorough instead of partial measures, to show that a purer knowledge of the beautiful can only result from a more perfect system of education, in which all the faculties are proportionately developed, the Fine Arts having their due share of attention with other exercises: also that this is not merely a question concerning the future excellence of our ornamental wares, but the greater one of the future welfare and progress of the British people."

England, the author conceives, would thus, by the adoption of such a system, taught in an edifice such as he describes, and in which the highest talent, foreign as well as native, in every section of science, should be concentrated, become the centre of the intellectual world, and so attain the culmination of her power.

The essay, and indeed anything that Mr. Cave Thomas may set before the public, is well worthy of perusal; but we doubt the practicability of such a system as yet, and fear that even though it were practicable, the fruits of such a vast scheme of education would not be what its projectors would anticipate. Special faculties and prepossessions in youth would inevitably lead to special attention to particular branches of knowledge, to the neglect of all else, in spite of every endeavour to level all to one universal democratic standard of acquisition and of knowledge; and even though this were not the case, what could the result by possibility be, but that an universal and useless smattering of all sorts of knowledge would be substituted for a well-grounded acquisition of the more essential or the chosen branches? Would it not be like an attempt to set up in commercial life with mere samples of everything sold by all, in place of with a good stock of something or other by which the tradesman would be likely to profit and to live? With man's limited faculties, it is only for the few of universal genius to attempt to compass every branch of science.

Transactions of the Architectural Institute of Scotland. Edinburgh, 1851.

THE first volume of the Transactions of the Architectural Institute of Scotland is a creditable monument of the industry and abilities of the members. It contains thirteen papers, occupying 244 nicely printed pages, and has a